

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

APPROVED Minutes

December 17, 2020

Meeting occurred via WebEx Teleconferencing

Chair Ford called meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Ford (Chair), Lynda Earle (Vice Chair), Scott Markow (Vice Chair), Bianca Chang, Mabrooka Chaudhry, Joan Hash, Peter Hwang, Joshua Kaufmann, Leslie Salgado-Tamayo, Gabriel Terrasa, Kui Zhao, and Jonathon Di Pietro (Student Commissioner).

Staff Present: Yolanda F. Sonnier (Executive Secretary) and Chaunta Taylor (Recording Secretary)

Legal Counsel: Melissa Goldmeier

Public Attendees Present: Mr. James Karantonis

I. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. James Karantonis, stated he is here to observed and thanked the commission for allowing him to attend another meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joshua made a motion to approve the November 19, 2020 minutes. Kui seconded the motion. All Commissioners in attendance voted in favor of accepting the minutes, as distributed. **The November 19, 2020 minutes were approved.**

III. CHAIR'S REPORT – BOB

Bob wished the committee Happy Holidays. Bob reminded the volunteers of the reconsideration meeting tomorrow at 11:30am and asked the Commissioners who volunteered if they were still attending. Joan and Kui responded yes, but Kui mentioned she will be running a few minutes late. Bob mentioned that COVE, Coalition for Opposing Violence and Extremism celebrated their 72nd United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Anniversary last week. Bob mentioned COVE is looking for new member if you're interested in joining. Bob requested clarification on the support OHRE will provide to the Commission. Yolanda indicated OHRE will continue to fully support and staff the commission as previously done.

IV. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Yolanda provided the Executive Secretary Report which included there was 1 HBI reported for the month of November 2020. The Compliance Officer and Equity and Restorative Practices Manager positions have been filled and further information will be provided. The MLK Holiday Celebration will be virtual in January.

V. STUDENT REPORT

Jonathan reported that he continues to work on the MPIA request for the HBIs within the schools. He has not been able to receive the information for the school at this time. The Commission discussed submitting another MPIA request. Josh indicated he would assist Johnathan in writing a letter to send to HCPSS. Commissioners thanked Jonathan for his hard work on this project.

VI. ELECTIONS (December):

The Commission discussed whether a Corresponding Secretary position was needed. The Commission voted and formed the new position of Corresponding Secretary.

The Commission held their annual elections for Chair, Vice Chair and the new Corresponding Secretary position.

Bob asked Yolanda if she had the nomination results from Survey Monkey. Yolanda mentioned yes but not all the commissioners voted. Yolanda indicated that Commissioners can still nominate someone during this meeting.

a. Chair

The nominations received for Chair of HRC were Peter, Scott, Lynda and Josh. Peter, Lynda and Josh all declined the nominations and thanked the commission for the confidence. Scott accepted the nomination for Chair. The Commission voted and unanimously elected Scott Markow as the Chair.

b. Vice Chair

Joan, Lynda, Kui, Bianca and Leslie were nominated as Vice Chair. Joan, Lynda, Kui and Leslie all declined the nominations and thanked the commission for their confidence. The Commission voted and unanimously elected Bianca Chang as the Vice Chair.

c. Correspondence Secretary

The Commission voted on a newly created Correspondence Secretary position. This position is responsible for drafting some of the communication HRC will send and circulate to the other commissioners for review and approval. The individual elected for this position will create a detail description of this position. Those nominated were Mabrooka, Bob, Peter and Josh. Mabrooka, Bob, and Peter all declined the nominations and thanked the commission for their confidence. The Commission voted and unanimously elected Joshua Kaufman as the Correspondence Secretary.

VII. RETREAT

Yolanda mentioned not all the Commissioners voted regarding the retreat dates in Survey Monkey. Yolanda stated the two dates are January 30, 2021 and February 6, 2021 from 10am-12:30pm, both days fall on a Saturday. All Commissioners stated they were available on both dates. Scott was asked as the newly elected chair which date, he preferred, and he chose the 1st available date of January 30th. All Commissioners agreed with the date and indicated they would be in Attendance. Scott indicated since Trent facilitated the retreat last year, was there someone who could facilitate the retreat this year. Yolanda stated she thought the new Equity Manager could facilitate; however, she would let the Commission know who will facilitate.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Nominating:** No report.
- b. Awards:** No report.
- c. Outreach:** No report.
- d. Civic Participation (Census/Voting):** No report.
- e. Hate Crimes:** No report.
- f. Legislation:** No report.

g. Immigration:

Joan stated that in tonight's meeting, we would like to approve the cover memo language submitted by Scott and move forward to release the final report. The memo was approved. Joan stated that the normal procedure once approved is for the current President, Bob, to transmit the final report through the Administrator who will post it on the website as well as transmit it to the County Executive and County Council. It was also agreed that once final and posted, Josh and Leslie will prepare a memo to transmit the report to the Coalition.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynda mentioned sending a Thank you letter and gift card to Sierra Siegal for singing at the 2020 HRC Award ceremony. Lynda stated she is willing to pay for a gift card if needed. Yolanda stated that the HRC has a budget we can use to purchase a gift card and Chaunta will prepare a certificate. L

Lynda also mentioned that the County Executive wants a month notice to event invites. She also thanked Bob for his quiet strength and leadership.

X. CLOSED SESSION

Closed session was called to discuss an appeal case.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Joan and 2nd by Lynda. All Commissioner voted in favor meeting adjourned.
- Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm.